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PATENT

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicant:** ESAB AB

**Serial Number:** 09/402185

**Filed:** 9/28/99

**For:** METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FRICTION STIR WELDING

**Attorney Docket Number:** 5746

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Hon. Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Box DD  
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 20, 2002

Sir:

Applicant submits herewith information of which he is aware, which believes may be material to the patentability of any claim and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56.

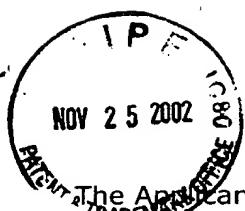
In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(a) exists.

While this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, it is not intended to be construed as an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b).

The Applicant has now received the following prior art references in connection a communication from the European Patent Office dated August 30, 2002 related to the counterpart PCT Patent Application.

The prior art references are set forth below and on the Form PTO-1449.

**US Patent 5,319,179**



The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner give full consideration to the information disclosed herein, make it of record in this Application, and complete and return the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

In compliance with 37 CFR § 1.97, this information is submitted before the mailing of a first Official Action on the merits. Further, this information was first cited in a communication from the European Patent Office in the counterpart PCT Application on August 30, 2002, less than 3 months prior to the submission of this information. No fee is due.

#### **AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT**

Authorization is hereby given to change any necessary fees in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 04-2219. Referencing our Docket Number 5746.

Respectfully submitted,

*Catherine L. Gemrich*

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#### **1<sup>ST</sup> CLASS CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on November 20, 2002.

*Chrisy Stein*  
Chrisy Stein

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